

Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)
150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvhp.org

WELCOME

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

The Little Church with a BIG Heart

Parish Office 201-768-1706

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech Jaškowiak
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Parochial Vicar

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Deacons

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201-768-1706

Religious Education (CCD)
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201-768-1400

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC
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Lesa Rossmann
Music Ministry

Martin Coyne II
Dean Ubriaco
Parish Trustees

Jorden Pedersen Esq.
President Parish Council

Jon Fischer CFA
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THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:

Mon.-Sat.: 7:30-7:50am. Saturday: 11:00-11:50am; 3:00-3:45pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism call the rectory.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:

Sick calls at any time in emergency.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:

Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973.497.4365.

Sunday, December 14, 2025 AD
Gaudete Sunday - 3rd Sunday in Advent
Jubilee Year of Hope

COME, LORD JESUS!



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:30pm Christmas Pageant & 4:00pm Mass in OLV Gym
4:30pm Mass in Church
6:00pm Mass in Church
9:00pm *Latin Mass in Church*

Christmas Day, December 25

(Christmas Carols 30 minutes before Mass)

12:00am Midnight Mass in Church

8:00am Mass in Church
9:30am Mass in Church
10:45am Mass in Church
12:00Noon Mass in Church
1:00pm *Spanish Mass in Church*

NO EVENING MASS Christmas Day

Consider Carpooling

Please do not park at Community Church

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4pm & 5pm
Sunday: 7am, 8am Latin, 9:30am,
9:30am Family Mass (gym), 10:45am,
12pm, 1pm Spanish, 6pm

OLV Rectory

Phone: 201-768-1706
Address: 81 Lynn St.
Email: olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

Religious Education

201-768-1400
155 Parkway
olvhpccd@gmail.com

OLV Convent

201-768-1705
145 Parkway



Fr. Wojciech's Corner...

Today is the last day of contributing to the Giving Tree. I thank all who helped the families in need to make this Christmas meaningful by giving so generously!

We thank Pizzi and Moritz funeral homes for beautiful calendars 2026 donated to us. Enjoy.

December 17th marks the second part of Advent. And a beginning of the Christmas Novena. As we prepare gifts, clean our homes, decorate, provide food, tickets in case we travel. What about our SOUL ? where Christ will want to reside He will not reside in our kitchen, nor under the Christmas tree, however beautiful it might be.

HE WANTS an INN IN our soul.

Nothing can outdo all the preparations than that of our soul - getting rid of sin through a good Confession. Please see the schedule of Confessions. Good preparation-MEANS-Good celebration.

Advent Journey of Wonder and Awe

with Deacon Al

Thursday evenings in Advent at 7:00PM

Each evening will have slide show presentation and reflection concluding with Benediction. All are welcome!

Holy Name Society—December 14 Men of all ages are invited: 9:30am Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet and refreshments/discussion in the lower church. Our reflection topic will be **“NCYC 2025 - Pope Leo XIV's historic first digital encounter with young U.S. Catholics.”** For more information, please contact the rectory.

GIVING TREE - Gift Cards DUE TODAY!

Please be sure to write the dollar amount of the gift card on the tag attached to the gift card.

Rosary Society Meeting

Thursday, December 18 - 12:00Noon Mass & Rosary followed by meeting / social in lower Church

Silent Night, Holy Night

Monday, December 22 - 6 to 9PM in OLV Church

During the season of Advent we invite young, and not so young, to stop for 10 minutes from all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, and visit Jesus in His Church. Sometimes, especially around Christmas, we are so busy with last minute preparations that we forget about preparing our hearts and souls for the holy celebration of Christmas. As a family, what greater example can we give to our children than to come to God's house and in the silence of the night offer our prayers to Emmanuel — God with us. Please make the effort to come and allow the music of the season to prepare you for the Feast of Christmas.

**Christmas is not just a date—
it is the miracle of God becoming man
to dwell among us.**

Bethlehem Handicrafts next weekend Dec 20/21

From the birthplace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Christian community is seeking your love and support through obtaining their handmade olive wood religious articles. These items will be displayed at the church after all Masses the weekend of December 20th and 21st. Your help can and will make a difference in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today is Gaudete Sunday – Rejoicing Sunday, we light the **rose** candle on the Advent Wreath as we rejoice in the Lord's coming. From His promise of Savior to Adam and Eve, God never abandoned His people. Through signs and symbols, sacred omens and oracles, God gave hope and direction to His people through the prophets. Many prophets had a difficult job of calling the people from their sinful ways to God's way – from the road to death to the way of salvation. God now entrusts that duty to the Church. Through its sacraments and preaching, God calls us from sin to salvation, from death to life.

Why ROSE today?

The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (November 12). St. Gregory the Great was the first to draw up an Office for the Advent season, and the Gregorian Sacramentary is the earliest to provide Masses for the Sundays of Advent. In both Office and Mass, provision is made for five Sundays, but by the tenth century four was the usual number, though some churches of France observed five as late as the thirteenth century. Notwithstanding all these modifications, however, Advent still preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent, the middle (or third) Sunday corresponding with Laetare or Mid-Lent Sunday. On it, as on Laetare Sunday, the organ and flowers, forbidden during the rest of the season, were permitted to be used; rose-colored vestments were allowed instead of purple (or black, as formerly). Gaudete Sunday, therefore, makes a breaker like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming.

ADVENT

Confession Schedule

(in lower church)

All Day - Sunday December 21

6:30AM - 7:00PM

“There are two births of Christ, one unto the world in Bethlehem; the other in the soul, when it is spiritually reborn. Men think of the former much more than the later, and celebrate it every year; but the spiritual Bethlehem is equally momentous. . . . It was the second birth that Saint Paul insisted on when he wrote from prison to his beloved people, the Ephesians, asking that Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith and that they be rooted and grounded in love. This is the second Bethlehem, or the personal relationship of the individual heart to the Lord Christ.” – Ven. Fulton Sheen

Next Sunday is Bambinelli Sunday

In Rome, every family brings their “Baby Jesus” from their Nativity Scene to receive a blessing from the Pope at the Angelus. Please bring your *Baby Jesus* that you will put in your manger to this year's OLV Bambinelli Blessing. We will have it during 9:30AM Family Mass on Sunday, December 14, in the OLV gym.

“Bambinelli”, plural for the word “bambinello”, refers to the “Baby Jesus” in a Nativity scene. The Bambinelli Blessing is a thirty year old tradition that was started in Rome at the Vatican.

Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

Captain Ben Clemente
RRT Specialist James Crumb
Staff Sergeant Peter Dippolito
Major Michael Franson
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene
Captain Shawn Linn
Sergeant Major Marc Medina
Captain John G. Miele
Captain Joseph W. Niece
Private Edward Oakley
Captain Jack Ottomanelli
Staff Sergeant David Petersen
Specialist John Petersen

US Air Force

1st Lieutenant Brian Kearney
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

US Marine Corps.

Corporal Shanna Bennett
Staff Sergeant Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Lance Corporal Nicholas Giron
Major Stephen Ikalowych
Captain J.P. Maher
Corporal Cody McGrath

US Navy

Commander Julia Cheringal
Lieutenant Jonathan Clemente
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger
Airman Cody Massa

Prayer for the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in You will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Pray for Our Sick Please *Pray* in the name of *JESUS*, the Healer, that the *sick of the Parish* may be restored to health and all those who *assist and care* for the sick will be given the *strength* to continue *God's Will*: infants Jack Merritt, Abigail Jude, Aidan, Olive, Adeline Quarello, Jonathan & Joseph; children Gabriel Aungst, Antonio and Shane, Cordelia and Eileen, Remy and Silvie; Annie Baklycki, Kevin Douglas Barry, Michael Baruch, Julie Berbert, Paul Brennan, James Buckley, Kathe Burruano, Joe Cafaro, Anna Carfagno, Bill Clark, Kevin Columbo, Thomas Connolly, Eddie Cooper, Paula Criqui, Michael Curran, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Noelle DeJoseph, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Guy DeSantis, Siobhan Donaghi, Whitney Dugan, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Dan Filippone, Jeremy Fillis, Walter Flaherty, Mary Foley, Phil Gangusa & Vicky Ferrara, Robin Fletcher, Leo Gendron, Ken Grier, Glenn Hall, Amy Hartwell, Richard Hogan, Kristine Leigh Hook, Rolando Joaquim, Austin Kellar, Pat Kissane, Christina Kenny, Tim Keohane, Joseph Koch, Artie Latz, Kenneth Luther, Peter Mahler, Robert Mayer, James McGarry, Michael McMahon, Adolfo Mendoza, David Mercur, Alice Miller, Len Moriarity, Gianna Moscatello, Kevin Mullane, Rose Marie Myers, Natalie Niebergall, Michael Oates, John Pal, Mary Parker, Tom Paskewich, Ronald Peterson, Bob Phillips, Canice Prince, Christina Pulver, William Ragu, Dan & Phyllis Ragusa, Robert Rasmussen, Patrick Ricci, Herman Rodriguez, Veronica Romanchuk, Wendy Ruggiero, Beth Sacco, Blase K Sacus, Samantha Sconzo, Patricia Ann Shalhoub, Peggy and Chris Shedden, Brian Sumereau, Michael Suresh, Maria Tamayo, Ollie Tetlow, Angeline Thomas, Felicia Veneruso, Jim Vlantes, Dennis Ubriaco, Carl Walker, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Maria Williams, Daniel Wu, Mary Young, Anthony K., Brian, Christina, Donna M., Edward, Elba, Jack, Jennifer, Joann, John, Karen, Kathleen V., Kaitlin V. Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Mary, Margaret, Melinda, Michelle, Patrick, Peter, Robert, Samantha, Sarah, Scott, Sharon, Steven, Tom.

What if you are CALLED! ??? Call the Vocations office 973-497-4365 and ask for Fr. Gino, Director, who is always ready to listen - or call Fr. Wojciech at our parish 201-768-1706, x11.

Pray for Vocations

Mass Intentions

Sunday, Dec 14– Gaudete Sunday - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

-St. John of the Cross of Spain, priest

7:00 James M. Walsh R/b Jeanne Marie Walsh
8:00 Aileen Vassar R/b Lorraine Petrone
9:30 Peter Redmond R/b Bob and Dolores Cavagnet
9:30 (Gym) Anthony Zaccaro R/b the Pedersen Family
10:45 Patrick J. Coleman R/b Cathy Ryan
12:00 Dalton Family R/b Julia Dalton
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Robert Apa R/b Darlene Bellizzi

Monday, December 15 – St. Nino of Georgia, virgin

8:00 Aileen Vassar R/b Rae Rinaldi
12:00 Andrew Oakes - 1st Anniversary

Tuesday, Dec. 16 - St. Adelaide of Burgundy-Queen of Germany

8:00 Marty Hroncich R/b Mr. & Mrs. Marty Piccinich
12:00 Jeffrey Heanue R/b Friends

Wednesday, December 17 - St. Olympias-Widow

8:00 Bernard Joseph Burruano R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 Charles Touw

Thursday, December 18 - St. Gatian, Bishop of Tours, France

8:00 Intentions of Helen Pfaff R/b Pauline Burke
12:00 Selena Piazza R/b Monica Ottomanelli

Friday, December 19 - Blessed Urban V-Pope

8:00 Intentions of Joan Crowley R/b Pauline Burke
12:00 John F. Flahive - 3rd Anniversary R/b Marie Flahive

Saturday, December 20 - Ss. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob-Patriarchs

8:00 Roberto Bernardo R/b Lenor and Crispin Mariano
12:00 Intentions of Reagan McElroy R/b the McElroy Family
4:00 Muriel Terzini R/b McGonigle Family
5:00 Joseph Longo R/b the Bentivegna Family

Sunday, December 21 - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

-St. Peter Canisius of Holland-Priest

7:00 Kathy DeGruccio R/b Bill and Michele Blackinton
8:00 Benedict and Anthony Walsh R/b Bridget Walsh
9:30 Susan Knauf R/b Bob and Dolores Cavagnet
9:30 (Gym) Anthony Zaccaro R/b the Brian Milli Family
10:45 Terry Santoro R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo
12:00 Elizabeth Gormley Mafaro R/b Kathleen Magarro
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Silvie Origoni R/b Bill and Maria Geronimo

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of **Lorraine Valdes**, r/b John Walsh.

The Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of **Bernard Joseph Burruano**, r/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn for the Souls in Purgatory

Flower & Sanctuary Offerings Flowers, Bread and Wine, the Bl. Virgin Mary and St. Joseph Votive Lamps and Sanctuary Lamp in the Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis. Contact the rectory for more information.

My Parish-My Responsibility Thank you to those who so generously continue to support our parish by mailing in your donations. At the same time, we understand that some are unable to continue their donations at this time. *Donations may be mailed to OLV, 81 Lynn St., Harrington Park, NJ 07640.* **New to the area?** Register to become a member of the OLV Family. Visit OLV's website olvhp.org and click on "Parish Registration". **New address or phone number?** Please inform the rectory.

Mondays are dedicated to the Holy Angels

THE "O ANTIPHONS" OF ADVENT

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. Since the Second Vatican Council, they have also been adapted (slightly reworded and rearranged) for the "Alleluia Verse" of the Mass (the short scriptural text or paraphrase that immediately precedes the Gospel reading). Each Antiphon invokes the coming of the Messiah, beginning with a biblical title and closing with a specific petition. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

-From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

Silence of St. Joseph

Joseph's silence in the Gospel does not demonstrate an empty interior, but rather the fullness of faith that he carries in his heart. Let's allow ourselves to be "infected" by the silence of St. Joseph!

Silence is so lacking in this world which is often too noisy, which is not favorable to recollection and listening to the voice of God. In this time of preparation for Christmas, let us cultivate interior recollection so as to receive and keep Jesus in our lives." - Benedict XVI

You cannot visit the child without visiting the mother; you cannot, in life, approach the child except through the mother. If we are to think of Christ in this aspect at all, the other idea follows as it is followed in history. We must either leave Christ out of Christmas, or Christmas out of Christ, or we must admit, if only as we admit it in an old picture, that those holy heads are too near together for the haloes not to mingle and cross.

G.K. Chesterton: *The Everlasting Man.*

Kidz Korner Answers

1. Gaudete Sunday.
2. The Latin word "Gaudete" (rejoice) is the first word in the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent.
3. The priest wears rose instead of purple vestment.
4. Families bring the baby Jesus from their mangers for a special blessing.

Are you an **ADULT** without **Confirmation, Communion or Baptism?**

If you want to become a Roman Catholic or complete your Initiation into the Church, the RCIA is for you! For information, phone the rectory. *Adult Catholics* who have not yet celebrated *Confirmation* or Holy Communion should contact the rectory for preparation class/information.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Godparent/Sponsor must be at least 16 years old * **Godparent/Sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.** Must be a practicing Catholic (*Attend Sunday Mass weekly*). * Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church. * If single, not living with significant other, nor married civilly only. * **Godparent/Sponsor cannot be the candidate's parent.** Each child only requires one Godparent. If you wish to have two Godparents, there must be one female and one male. (Canon Law 872-874)

Sacred Matrimony on Sacred ground

"ceremony" at the venue is not a valid Sacrament

For the Catholic Church the Sacrament of Matrimony is such a sacred matter that the Church requires for two Catholics to be married sacramentally in the Catholic Church, not elsewhere. All the Sacraments except Confession are always celebrated in Church. Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and the Sacred Orders (Priesthood is even celebrated at the Cathedral of a given Diocese). A Catholic priest can only officiate Sacrament of Matrimony of two Catholics on sacred grounds (Church). This wedding at the same time is a civil wedding. For more info contact Fr. Wojciech.

Respect Life Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance should never feel that abortion is her only option. For confidential assistance call: Archdiocese Respect Life Office 973-497-4350*Gateway Pregnancy Ctr. 908-353-0604*Catholic Community Svcs. 201-246-7379 *Lifecall 800-662-2678*Birthright: 201-845-4646*NewHope 201-722-4705.

OLV Needlers If you'd like to learn to knit or crochet, join us in the lower church Wednesdays at 6PM and/or Thursdays after 12Noon Mass. Yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles supplied.

OLV Knights of Columbus All men over 18 are invited to join the Knights of Columbus. As Catholic men we are called to lead, serve, protect and defend our Faith, families, and our parish. The Knights of Columbus will help you grow as a husband, father and Catholic. Join us!

Catholic Daughters of the Americas For info' call Marie 201-741-0499.

From Archdiocese: Report Financial Misconduct Confidentially: if you suspect financial misconduct use EthicsPoint, an independent and confidential reporting tool that helps the Archdiocesan community address issues while promoting positive parish, school and workplace environments. Visit www.rcan.org for the hotline and reporting link.

Candlelight Carol Sing: Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark - Wed., December 17 at 8PM & Thur., December 18 at 8PM. For more info cathedralinfo@rcan.org

SAVE THE DATE - January 17, 2026
ANNUAL "Hap Nightingale" BEEFSTEAK
Our Lady of Victories Knights of Columbus Council 14483

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How far was Mary & Joseph's trip to Bethlehem?

During these final days of Advent, our thoughts turn to a humble couple, weary from their long journey. This is a long way for anyone, let alone a woman nine months pregnant. Some say she would have walked rather than ridden a donkey, as is often depicted. Either way, it would have been an intensely wearying trip!

In addition to this, consider the time of year. It was winter, and the weather was cold and harsh. When Mary and Joseph at last arrived at their destination, no comfort awaited them. The inn was full and they had to take refuge in a stable.

Of course, this was not simply bad luck. Our Lord chose these conditions.

He chose, from the very outset of His life, what was humble and poor. He could have been born in a palace; He chose a stable instead. He could have rested in a royal crib; He preferred a manger. He could have been wrapped in the richest, warmest blankets; He chose swaddling clothes.

The words of the well-known hymn, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, come to mind when we think of this sleeping Child, unknown but to a few, quiet and humble, God Himself among men, silent and small...

“...in thy dark streets shineth the Everlasting Light...
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.”

Truly, all the hopes and longing of God's people—chronicled throughout the Scriptures that had foretold His coming for so long—have come to rest tonight in this humble Child.

-Catholiccompany.com/getfed

Christmas Tree, Creche - Powerful Symbols

A Christmas tree is an eloquent symbol of the Incarnation, Pope Benedict XVI remarked, "because with its evergreen leaves it recalls the life that does not die." The Pope remarked that traditional symbols of Christmas, including the tree and the crèche, endure because they are popular expressions of profound truths. The symbols of Christmas, he said, are "part of the spiritual heritage of our communities; an atmosphere suffused with religiosity and family intimacy." Those traditions, he added, should be upheld to counter the materialism and consumerism that threaten to obscure the spiritual message of the Christmas celebration.

-catholicculture.org

CANDY CANE'S HIDDEN LESSON

How can a candy treat be a birth announcement? Many years ago a candy maker had an idea. He wanted to show, through the candy he made, that Jesus Christ was born among us, lived and died to save us all. So, through the use of color and shape, he created a piece of candy that told the story of Jesus from Christmas to Easter. He created the candy cane. The white stripes on the candy cane stand for the fact that Jesus was sinless and pure. The small red stripes stand for the scourging Jesus endured before He died. The large red stripes stand for Jesus' blood, shed on the cross. The candy cane is shaped like a shepherd's staff, reminding us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Turn it upside down, and it is a letter "J", the first letter of Jesus' name. We can learn a lot from the candy cane—both to look at it and see Jesus, and, like the candy maker, to share the story of Jesus in whatever we do.

TRUE JOY

Pope Benedict XVI in an Angelus message, explained the difference between two types of joy.

The liturgy of this Sunday, known as "Gaudete" Sunday, is a special invitation to us to joyfulness, to a vigilance that is not sad but happy. "Gaudete in Domino semper," St. Paul wrote: "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil 4:4). True joy is not a fruit of "divertirsi" [having a good time] understood in the etymological sense of the word di-vertere (di-version), that is, shirking the commitments of life and one's responsibilities.

True joy is linked to something deeper. Of course, in the all too often frenetic pace of daily life it is important to find time for rest and relaxation, but true joy is linked to our relationship with God. Those who have encountered Christ in their own lives feel a serenity and joy in their hearts that no one and no situation can take from them. St. Augustine understood this very well; in his quest for truth, peace and joy, after seeking them in vain in many things he concluded with his famous words: "and our heart is restless until it rests in God" (cf. Confessions, I, 1, 1).

Benedict expands on this definition of joy, explaining how "True joy is not merely a passing state of mind or something that can be achieved with the person's own effort; rather it is a gift, born from the encounter with the living Person of Jesus and, making room within ourselves, from welcoming the Holy Spirit who guides our lives. It is the invitation of the Apostle Paul who says: 'May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Thessalonians 5:23)."

This means that Christian joy is not something we can grasp at or invent, but something we receive from a personal relationship with God. It is something we receive "from the encounter with the living Person of Jesus." If we want to foster Christian joy during this Advent season, we must deepen our own relationship with God. Then, and only then, will we possess a joy that the world can't take away.

No matter what happens in our lives, if we stay rooted in Jesus Christ, we will be able to emanate a joy that far surpasses any momentary joy we may feel on earth. It is a joy that endures and brings us life everlasting

-aleteia.org

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A Little Humor ...

While a man had gone out driving to do some Christmas shopping, his wife had been watching TV when she heard the announcer say, "be very careful and watch driving on Route 17 today, there is a motorist driving the wrong way!"

The wife got hold of her husband on the cell phone to warn him about motorist, and his reply was: "You tell me—there are hundreds of them here!"

Kidz Korner (answers page 4)

1. What is another name for the Third Sunday of Advent?
2. What is the meaning of Gaudete Sunday?
3. What color vestment does the priest wear on Gaudete Sunday?
4. Next Sunday will be Bambinelli Sunday. What is it?

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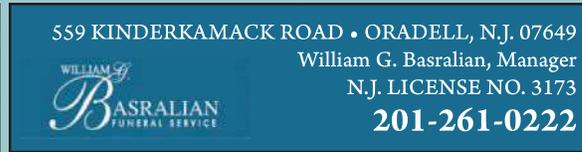
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